

Remarks

The Board of Appeals and Interferences considered only claim 1 over the Blake reference (U.S. Patent No. 4,569,960). Claim 1 has been amended following the outcome of the appeal. Claims 9 and 10 have been amended for clarification purposes. New claims 11-24 have been added. The amendments and new claims are fully supported by the specification and add no new matter to the application. Claim 7 has been cancelled without prejudice. Applicants reserve the right to pursue any cancelled claims in a continuation application.

The pending claims are claims 1-6 and 8-24.

Rejections of Claim 1 based 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or § 103 over U.S. Patent No. 4,569,960

Claim 1 has been amended. Applicants believe that claim 1 is novel and not obvious over U.S. Patent No. 4,569,960 (hereinafter "US '960).

US '960 provides no teaching or suggestion of an article having a thermoplastic packaging material enveloping the adhesive. Rather, US '960 discloses applying the adhesive to Kraft paper for use in splicing carbonless paper. Kraft paper is not a thermoplastic material. The Kraft paper disclosed in this reference does not envelope (i.e., substantially surround) the adhesive; the adhesive is applied to one surface of the Kraft paper.

Claim 1 is not anticipated or obvious over US '960. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections based on this reference.

Rejections of Claim 8 based 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or § 103 over US '960

The Board of Appeals did not consider claim 8. Applicants believe that claim 8 is novel and not obvious over US '960.

US '960 provides no teaching or suggestion of a method for preparing a wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive that includes combining a solventless polymerizable mixture. Rather, this reference specifically teaches a polymerizable composition that includes solvents. For example, column 6, lines 40-67 recite that a solution was coated directly on a Kraft paper backing. The solution was prepared by mixing a solution of an acrylate:vinyl carboxylic acid copolymer in methanol (about 20-22% solids) with a low viscosity solution of a second composition. The second composition included methanol and water.

Claim 8 is not anticipated or obvious over US '960. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections based on this reference.

Rejections of Claim 9 based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or § 103 over US '960

The Board of Appeals did not consider claim 9. Applicants believe that claim 9 is novel and not obvious over US '960.

US '960 provides no teaching or suggestion of a method for preparing a wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive that includes enveloping the polymerizable mixture in a thermoplastic packaging material. The Kraft paper disclosed in this reference does not substantially surround the adhesive; the adhesive is applied to one surface of the Kraft paper. The Kraft paper is not a thermoplastic material.

Further, as discussed for claim 8, US '960 provides no teaching or suggestion of a method for preparing a wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive that includes combining a solventless polymerizable mixture. Rather, this reference specifically teaches a polymerizable composition that includes solvents.

Claim 9 is not anticipated or obvious over US '960. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections based on this reference.

Rejections of Claim 10 based on 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) or § 103 over US '960

The Board of Appeals did not consider claim 10. Applicants believe that claim 10 is novel and not obvious over US '960.

US '960 provides no teaching or suggestion of a method for preparing a wet stick pressure sensitive adhesive that includes enveloping the polymerizable mixture in a thermoplastic packaging material. The Kraft paper disclosed in this reference does not substantially surround the adhesive; the adhesive is applied to one surface of the Kraft paper. The Kraft paper is not a thermoplastic material.

Further, US '960 does not teach or suggest a method that includes combining a prepolymeric syrup with a non-reactive plasticizer to form a polymerizable mixture. Rather, the plasticizer is added after the polymerization reaction.

Claim 10 is not anticipated or obvious over US '960. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections based on this reference.

Applicants submit that pending claims 1-6 and 8-24 are in condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

By: Jean A. Lown
Jean A. Lown, Reg. No.: 48,428
Telephone No.: (651) 733-3169

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel
3M Innovative Properties Company
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833